

1. How many letters are there in English?

26

2) How many sounds are there?

RP: 44 (24 consonants and 20 vowels)

AE: 40 (24 consonants and 16 vowels)

3) What's the basic difference between a consonant sound and a vowel sound?

Consonants are produced by interrupting or obstructing the air flow. In vowels, the air flow is simply modified, but not interrupted.

4) What's the general difference between the phonemes /s/ and /z/?

/s/ is voiced and /z/ is voiceless

5) What's the name of the most common vowel sound in English?

Schwa /ə/ (This present is for my brotherer. It's a book about a wizard.)

6) What sound do these three words have in common: *does, zoo, noise*?

/z/

Phonology II

WORD AND SENTENCE STRESS

What's word stress?

Accent or emphasis given to a syllable of a word.
(louder; longer; different pitch)

What's sentence stress?

The prominent word or words in a sentence (although there are some ground rules, it can also be chosen by the speaker to highlight intended meaning)

WORD STRESS

In pairs, please mark the stress of the following words:

1. water

2. beautiful

3. constitutional

4. rhinoceros

5. photograph

6. photographer

7. newspaper

8. reliable

Can you think of some of the ground rules?

SENTENCE STRESS

Please look at the following sentences and mark their stressed parts:

1. We thought you were dead.

2. I'm sure Henry didn't do it.

Now, look at the sentences again. Can you think about the basic rules for sentence stress?

Content words

- ☞ Main verbs
(sell, give, do)
- ☞ Nouns
(door, movies, Henry)
- ☞ Adjectives
(clear, large, great)
- ☞ Adverbs
(fast, never, fairly)
- ☞ Negative auxiliaries
(don't, isn't, shouldn't)

Structure/Function words

- ☞ Pronouns
(he, we, they)
- ☞ Prepositions
(on, at, into)
- ☞ Articles
(a, an, the)
- ☞ Conjunctions
(and, but, because)
- ☞ Auxiliary verbs
(do, be, have, can, must)



1. They discussed it with Frank.



2. She asked me to stay.



3. Where's your book?



4. She's thinking.



5. He needs to practice.



6. They missed the bus.

SENTENCE STRESS

- **stress-timed lggs:**

a speech rhythm in which the **stressed syllables** recur at **equal intervals** of time called **tone groups** (eg. Has anyone read][today's paper?). So, the first part is longer but 'compressed' to fit the interval, process called accommodation.
(English, Arabic, German, Portuguese from Portugal).

- **syllable-timed lggs:**

a speech rhythm in which all **syllables** are said to **recur at equal intervals**.
(Spanish, French, Brazilian Portuguese).

CONTRASTIVE SENTENCE STRESS

Exception to the rule:

Stress carries meaning. Depending on the context, some content words are more prominent than others. A sentence like, 'Mike is calling from Greece,' could have any word stressed, generating a 'marked utterance'. Contrastive stress is generally used to introduce new information, or clarify previously given bits.

1. Carol drove to France with her father. (not Jean)
2. Carol drove to France with her father. (not flew)
3. Carol drove to France with her father. (not from)
4. Carol drove to France with her father. (not Italy)
5. Carol drove to France with her father. (not mom)

